

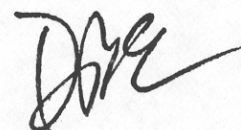
The Secretary of State presents his compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and refers to the delivery of mail and parcels to the Department of State.

The Secretary wishes to advise the Chiefs of Mission that all mail and parcels directed to the Department are now subject to intensified screening and testing. This change has been implemented due to the release of the anthrax virus into the United States Postal system last year. All official mail in the National Capital Region is being irradiated. As a result, delays in delivery to Department personnel will be incurred. To ensure the timely receipt of materials, it is suggested that copies of items which are time sensitive be transmitted by courier or by FAX as well as by mail. Such items would include notification of impending events, requests requiring a prompt response, invitations, and any other matters where immediate action is desired.

Deliveries made by courier, or carriers other than the United States Postal Service (for example commercial carriers such as UPS, FEDEX or DHL), will be accepted as long as the recipient verifies the source. However, couriers will be required to wait with their deliveries until they are accepted in person by the recipients or their designees.

Department of State,

Washington, July 22, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. G. R.', is written over a faint, large watermark of the Great Seal of the United States.